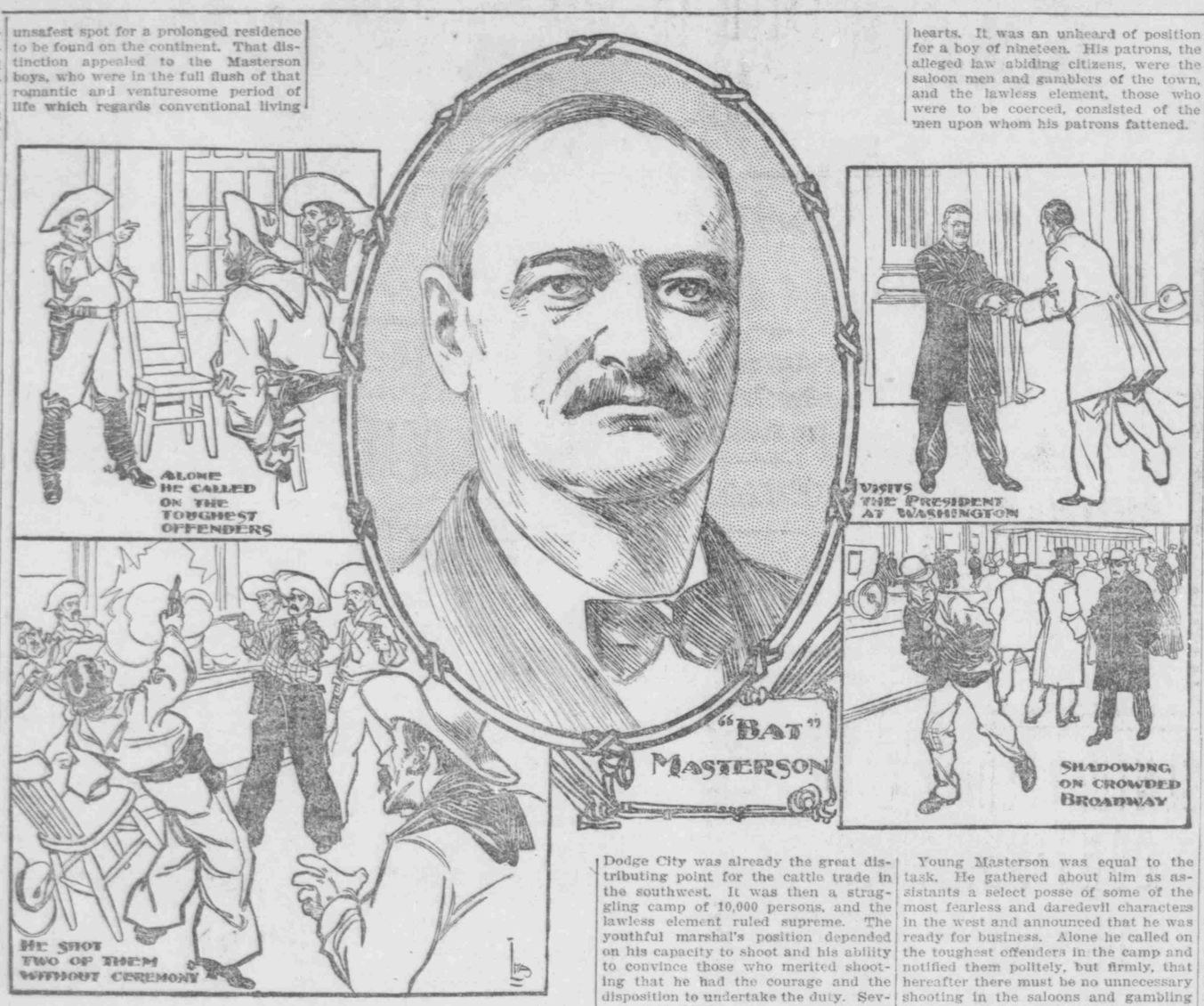
"Bat" Masterson, "Gun Fighter" and Deputy Marshal

WILLIAM BARCLAY MASTERSON, hitherto conveniently nicknamed "Bat" and apparently taking no offense when he is addressed by that euphonious makeshift, has achieved fresh notoriety on account of his recent appointment as a deputy United States marshal for the southern district of New York. In addition to the interest which is attached to Masterson's unique personality, there is the further distinction that his appointment was at the special request of the president, who confesses to a liking for the erstwhile "bad man."

Mr. Roosevelt's friendship for this good "bad man" dates from the time when the president was an amateur ranchman. He was an observer at first hand of some of Masterson's unhesitating methods, and they appealed to him. He made a study of the man, and he became convinced that the good in him was largely in the ascendant. Once committed to that view of the case, Mr. Roosevelt paid little attention to the reports in active circulation, which were somewhat damaging to his friend's reputation as a law abiding citizen. About a year ago Masterson went to Washington at the solicitation of the president and for a week or more had daily visits with his patron. The old days in the west were recalled, and the president's good opinion of the man suffered no diminution. He evidently made up his mind at that time to do something substantial for "Bat" whenever the opportunity should offer.

There are few men better known in the west than "Bat" Masterson. His publicity is on a par with that of Buffalo Bill. Much has been printed concerning him in the daily press and sporting journals. Some of it is the truth, but most of it is tinctured with the romance which seems to be inseparable from the lives of those who violate the moral code for the sake of morality. Masterson has spent the greater part of his mature life in a lawless community in which drastic measures have afforded the only possible safeguard against violence. It has been his office in the chaos of disorder to establish a limit. In the accomplishment of that heroic purpose he has undoubtedly been a tremendous success.

Deputy Marshal Masterson is a native of Chicago and is about fifty years of age. When he was a boy he and his brothers, Edward and James, attended the Douglas High school, and they all were graduated from that institution. They went westward in the early seventies to seek their fortunes and stopped at Dodge City, Kan., which at that time was the limit of civilization. The camp had the reputation of being the unsafest spot for a prolonged residence to be found on the continent. That distinction appealed to the Masterson boys, who were in the full flush of that romantic and venturesome period of life which regards conventional living with absolute disgust. They were looking for trouble, and they were not long in finding it. Both James and Edward met with speedy disaster; both of them were shot dead in a battle with outlaws.



Although he was but nineteen years of age "Bat" Masterson had shown such aptitude for the position that the so called law abiding element of the growing town chose him for city marshal. Dodge City was already the great distributing point for the cattle trade in the southwest. It was then a straggling camp of 10,000 persons, and the lawless element ruled supreme. The youthful marshal's position depended on his capacity to shoot and his ability to convince those who merited shooting that he had the courage and the disposition to undertake the duty. Several of his predecessors, some of whom had been "sure enough bad men," had come to grief at the hands of the reckless cowboys who made periodical incursions into Dodge City with money in their pockets and murder in their hearts. It was an unheard of position for a boy of nineteen. His patrons, the alleged law abiding citizens, were the saloon men and gamblers of the town, and the lawless element, those who were to be coerced, consisted of the men upon whom his patrons fattened.

Young Masterson was equal to the task. He gathered about him as assistants a select posse of some of the most fearless and daredevil characters in the west and announced that he was ready for business. Alone he called on the toughest offenders in the camp and notified them politely, but firmly, that hereafter there must be no unnecessary shooting in the saloons and gambling houses and less indiscriminate pistol practice in the streets. He was laughed at, and the wild orgy proceeded. Masterson and his aids appeared in the midst of a crowd of rioters engaged in looting a noted resort, and the marshal called upon the marauders to disperse. To convince them of his sincerity he shot two of them without ceremony. This preliminary argument, although lamentably forcible, was effectual.

Masterson served as Dodge's marshal until the town became humdrum on account of the diversion of the cattle trade into other channels. Under his protection the town became a safe haven for that branch of the sporting fraternity yclept "respectable," and the outlaws were not permitted to interfere with the saloons and gambling houses. In 1881 "Bat" bade farewell to Dodge City, which had degenerated into a stupid and peace loving agricultural center, and sought the freer atmosphere and less restricted social environment to be found on the frontier. For several years he lived the nomadic existence known to the cowboy. He sometimes varied the monotony of ranch life by an incursion into the haunts of civilization. On one occasion he made a visit rather more prolonged than usual in Denver and was appointed a deputy marshal. Denver was no place for a genuine "bad man," and he soon wearied of its goodness.

In the fall of 1893 Masterson went to New York at the request of Thomas Byrnes, then superintendent of police. It had been reported to the superintendent that a prominent citizen was being shadowed by an unknown individual who evidently meant to do him harm. Masterson was employed to see that this mysterious enemy should not be able to accomplish his design. At that time "Bat" was described by Superintendent Byrnes as a person who would not be afraid to shoot a man on crowded Broadway and who would be certain to hit the right man. Masterson followed the unknown for eight months, when he turned out to be a lunatic. Since then "Bat" has spent much of his time in New York, and his wife and children reside there. He has been employed in various capacities, mostly at the race tracks as a "deterrent" for those who are not disposed to play a fair game.

The new deputy marshal is a mild mannered, soft voiced and unusually well dressed man. He is absolutely free from any peculiarity of person that would proclaim him a "bad man." He is of medium height and weight and has the appearance of a prosperous professional man. He is extremely affable and uses well chosen expressions entirely free from slang. He is reputed to be abstemious in his habits and punctilious in his social life. He has hosts of friends, and those who know him best are most outspoken in their admiration. His future career will be a matter of interest.

CHANNING A. BARTOW.

PLUCKY ENDURANCE OF THE "HUNGER ARTIST."

The cut represents Herr Papus at his self inflicted task of standing upright in a bottle shaped glass cabinet for eight days without food or water. This feat of endurance was performed for exhibition purposes at the Crystal palace at Leipsic and attracted much attention from the curious of all classes.

Herr Papus calls himself a "hunger artist" and seems to regard his curious profession with great respect. It is evident that the most trying feature of the act is the continuous standing posture. That would be a task which would tax the endurance of the strongest man even if the fasting were omitted. Herr Papus seems to suffer no permanent physical inconvenience, for he has repeated the act several times and expects to continue it as long as it is profitable.

ELECTRICITY FROM WATERFALLS

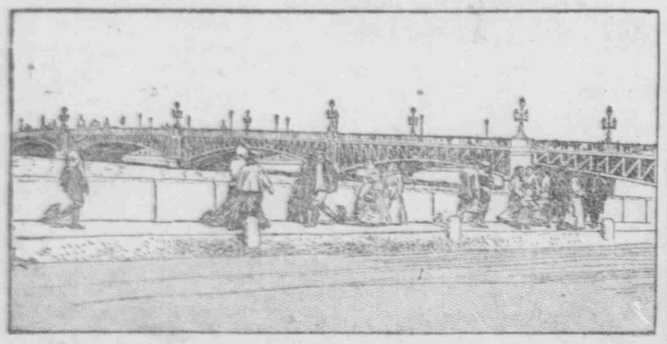
It is one thing to utilize the force of water for generating electricity, as has been done at Niagara falls, but it is several steps in advance of this idea to first produce the falls and then make use of the power. At Helena, Mont., there is a precipice 500 feet high, to which the water of several streams is led in flumes, and a power house of 1,000 horsepower is to be erected at the foot.

INTERESTING PICTURES GATHERED FROM FAR AND NEAR

"EMANCIPATED" WOMEN OF SWITZERLAND.

The women in the picture are natives of the primitive little village of Champery, in the canton of Valais, Switzerland. It is a remote mountainous region, and the women of the district have worn trousers from time immemorial. The men of Champery are known to be the laziest in the republic. They will sometimes accept employment as guides, but manual labor is not at all to their taste. The women, therefore, have been obliged to follow outdoor occupations, and they have been clever enough to fit themselves for the undertaking. Since these emancipated women of Champery have been compelled to adopt the avocations and attire distinctive of masculinity, they have gone a step further and provided themselves with short brierwood pipes and chamois skin tobacco pouches.

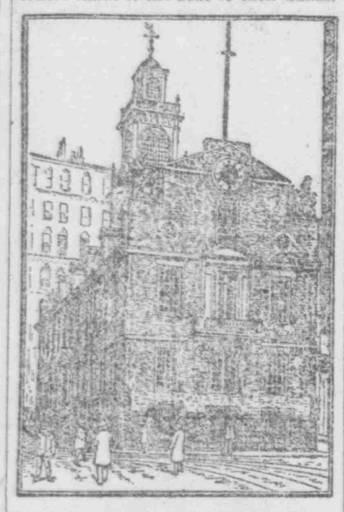
PEASANTS ENJOYING A HOLIDAY IN ST. PETERSBURG.



The cut shows a group of Russian peasants crossing the Dvortsovaria quay in St. Petersburg. They have come into town early in the day from some outlying commune to spend a day or two in sightseeing. If night overtakes them before they have become surfeited with the gay capital they will make themselves comfortable in some one of the numerous squares and devote another day to the sights and wonders.

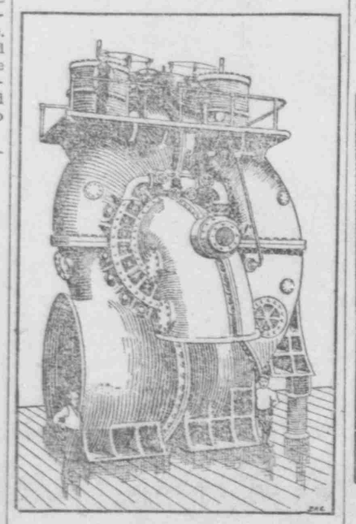
BOSTON'S HISTORIC STATEHOUSE

The cut illustrates one of Boston's most historic structures, the old statehouse in which the Declaration of Independence was first proclaimed in New England. Some of the royal governors made it the seat of their administration. Here it was that John Hancock, the first governor elected by the people, was inaugurated. The famous old structure has been converted to utilitarian purposes. It is now used as the Devonshire street station of the new East Boston tunnel. The upper part of it, however, contains the fine collection of the Boston Historical society.

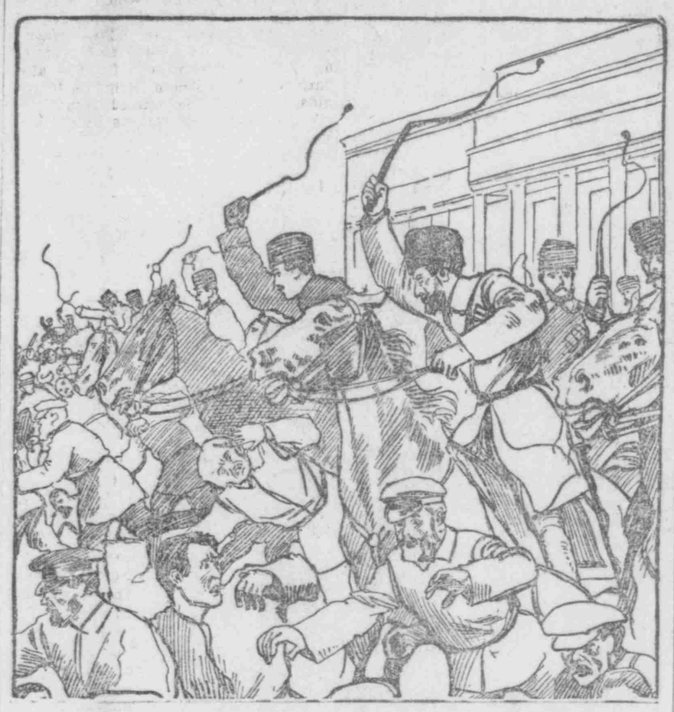


LARGEST TURBINE EVER MADE.

The cut represents the largest turbine ever designed for actual use. This monster affair is a whole power house in itself and swallows a small river when it is in operation. The amount of water passing through it per minute is 400,000 gallons. The weight of the entire apparatus is 364,000 pounds. The wheel alone weighs five tons. The twenty-two inch shaft weighs ten tons. This unique turbine was built for the power station at Shawenegan, Quebec.

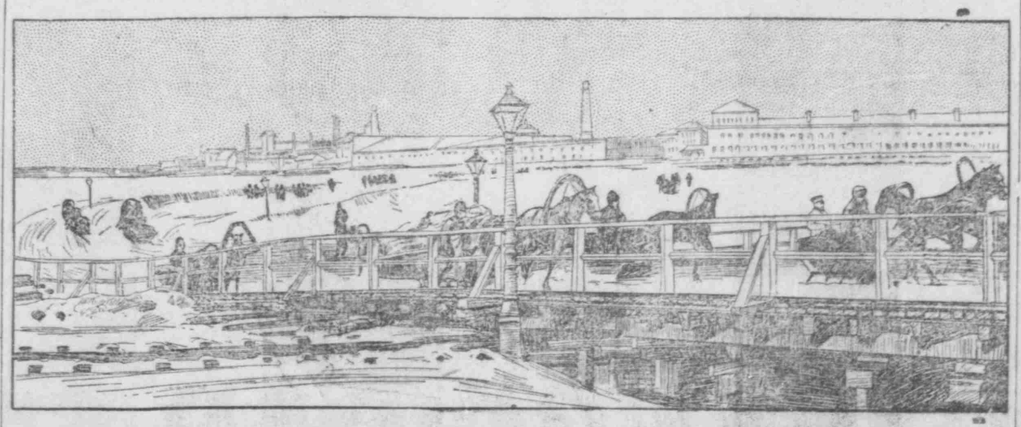


COSSACKS USING THE KNOUT ON A MOB.



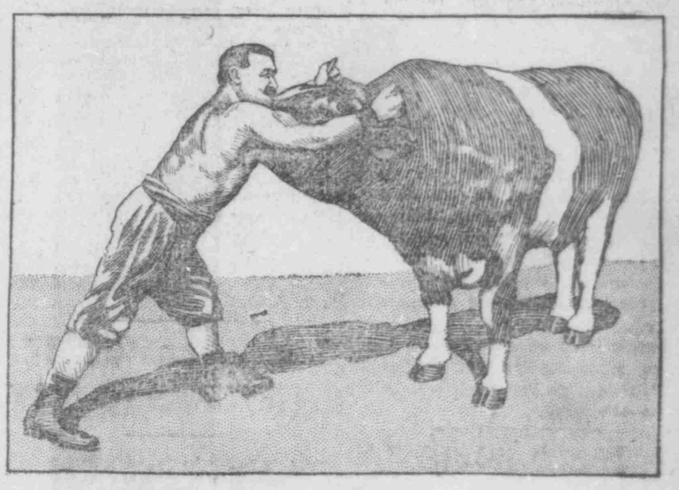
The picture illustrates the manner in which the mounted Cossacks of the czar's guard attempted to quell the recent uprising of the industrial trades at St. Petersburg. The original knout consisted of thongs of hide intermingled with wire, and 100 strokes were equivalent to death. This barbaric weapon was abolished by the first Nicholas, and the present knout, which amounts to a stout lash of specially hardened hide, was substituted. In the days of serfdom this means of punishment was in common use, but it seems that the Cossacks still cling to it. These same Cossacks, by the way, have suffered a tremendous loss of prestige since their rather feeble showing in the Russo-Japanese war.

ICE BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER NEVA.



The picture represents a scene which is common enough during the long Russian winter at the capital. St. Petersburg is situated at the delta of the Neva, covering both banks of that stream and occupying the islands that are formed by its branches. Besides this, numerous canals have been constructed, and the city has been called not inaptly "the frozen Venice of the north." All these water courses are provided with substantial bridges, but during the long and severe winter season nature supplies ice roadways which are so popular that the artificial means of crossing from the islands to the mainland and back again are practically abandoned. For several months each year the Neva becomes the most frequented thoroughfare in the city, and it is divided into streets, some of which are bordered with bazaars and places of amusement of various descriptions.

ASTOUNDING FEAT OF A FRENCH WRESTLER.



The latest Parisian sensation is illustrated in the picture. It is a trial of strength and more particularly skill between a wrestler and a fierce bull. Ursus is the stage name of the strong man who meets the vicious animal, and he never fails to throw the beast every time he makes the attempt. He does not wait for the bull to make an onslaught, but takes the surprised monster's head in his brawny arms and forces him to the ground, rolling him over like a vanquished gladiator. The sport, if it may be termed such, attracts vast audiences in Paris. The apparent ease with which Ursus floors the bull relieves the act from the repulsiveness of the bullfight, and the daring and skill of the wrestler furnish the requisite thrill.

LONG HAIR.

The longest hair in the world adorns the head of Mercedes Lopez, the wife of a poor sheep herder in Mexico. Her height is five feet, and when she stands erect her hair lies on the ground four feet eight inches. It is so thick that she can completely hide herself in it. She has it cut very often, and, as it grows quickly, she is able to sell it to a dealer every month.

A REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIAN AUTHOR.

One of the most picturesque figures in the recent revolutionary outbreak in the Russian empire is Maxim Gorky, whose novels of Slavonic life have been read in every civilized land. Gorky was arrested accused of being a member of the seditionary committee of seventy which announced its readiness

to assume the reins of government and to carry on all its functions until a better system should be forthcoming. Gorky is the son of a poor mechanic of Nijni Novgorod, and his whole early career was one of constant struggle. His poverty was so crushing that he once attempted to commit suicide. Fame and prosperity came at last, but Gorky has devoted himself to the spread of protest against existing conditions, and as a consequence he is no stranger to Muscovite prison life.